

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 15, 20, 22-25, and 27-31 without prejudice.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A pulverulent masterbatch composition comprising a nanoclay, wherein the nanoclay comprises which ~~comprises~~ an organically intercalated swellable inorganic layered material which has been surface coated in a dry process with a pre-exfoliating additive or additive mixture.
2. (Currently amended) The composition, ~~as claimed in claim of claim~~ 1, characterized in ~~that~~wherein the average particle size of the nanoclay is from 1 to 13 μm .
3. (Currently amended) The composition ~~as claimed in claim of claim~~ 1, characterized in ~~that~~wherein the nanoclay comprises a ground nanoclay.
4. (Currently amended) The composition ~~as claimed in claim of claim~~ 1, characterized in ~~that~~wherein the inorganic layered material is selected from naturally occurring or synthetic phyllosilicates.
5. (Currently amended) The composition ~~as claimed in claim of claim~~ 1, characterized in ~~that~~wherein the additive or the additive mixture has been selected from the group consisting of saturated or unsaturated fatty acids and their salts, fatty acid derivatives, polymer fatty acids, siloxane derivatives, and their mixtures.

6. (Currently amended) The composition as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that wherein the fatty acid or fatty acid derivatives have been selected from fatty acids having from 10 to 30 carbon atoms.
7. (Currently amended) The composition as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that wherein the fatty acid derivatives have been selected from the group consisting of hydrogenated derivatives, alcohol derivatives, amine derivatives, and their mixtures.
8. (Currently amended) The composition as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that wherein the unsaturated fatty acids comprise mono- or polyunsaturated hydroxyl fatty acids.
9. (Currently amended) The composition as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that wherein the fatty acid derivatives have been selected from the group consisting of polymeric fatty acid alkyloxazolines, fatty acid alkylbisoxazolines, and their mixtures.
10. (Currently amended) The composition as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that wherein the siloxane derivatives have been selected from the group consisting of oligoalkyl-siloxanes, polydialkylsiloxanes, polyalkylaryl-siloxanes, polydiarylsiloxanes, and their mixtures.
11. (Currently amended) The composition as claimed in claim 10, characterized by in that wherein the siloxane derivatives are functionalized by with at least one reactive group.
12. (Currently amended) The composition as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that wherein the additive or the additive mixture has been selected from the group consisting of ethylene-propylene terpolymers (EPM), ethylene-propylene copolymers (EPDM), thermoplastic elastomers, coupling agents, crosslinking agents, and their mixtures.
13. (Currently amended) The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein the average molecular weight of o-f-the EPM and EPDM is less than 20 000.

14. (Currently amended) The composition as ~~claimed in claim of claim~~ 12, characterized by wherein an ethylene:propylene ratio of the EPM and the EPDM from 40:60 to 60:40.

15-31. (Cancelled).

32. (New). A pulverulent masterbatch composition comprising a nanoclay, wherein the nanoclay consists of an organically intercalated swellable inorganic layered material which has been surface coated in a dry process with a pre-exfoliating additive or additive mixture.